

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-10 DRC-01 /129 W

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R 011415Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6941

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BLANTYRE 436

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MI

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BANDA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTS IN PARLIAMENT

REF: BLANTYRE 394 (NOTAL)

1. IN SPEECH CLOSING PARLIAMENT MAR 29 PRESIDENT BANDA EMPHASIZED THAT, REPORTS TO CONTRARY, THERE IS NO CHANGE IN MALAWI'S POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA, PORTUGAL AND RHODESIA. PRESIDENT SAID THAT LIKE OTHER GOM OFFICIALS (REFTEL) HE HAD BEEN MISQUOTED, FOR EXAMPLE BY REPORT CIRCULATING IN GERMANY THAT AFRICAN NEIGHBOR STATES WERE NOW FRIENDLY TO MALAWI BECAUSE OF CHANGE IN BANDA POLICY TOWARD WHITE REGIMES. PREVIOUSLY SOME NEIGHBORING STATES THOUGHT THAT BY ISOLATING MALAWI COUNTRY WOULD COLLAPSE. PRESIDENT CONTINUED THIS HAD NOT HAPPENED AND IF ANY COUNTRY WAS STILL WAITING FOR MALAWI TO CHANGE POLICY, "THAT COUNTRY WILL WAIT UNTIL DOOM'S DAY."

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2. PRESIDENT ALSO CRITICIZED OAU FOR NOT ACCEPTING WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS "JUST AS IT ACCEPTED ARABS." HISTORICALLY, HE SAID, WHITE SETTLERS CAME TO SOUTH AFRICA AT SAME TIME SETTLERS WENT TO AMERICA; HENCE WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE AS MUCH AFRICAN AS AMERICANS ARE AMERICAN, ETC. SAID OAU WAS ILLOGICAL ORGANIZATION UNLESS IT ACCEPTED THIS FACT.

3. COMMENT: WE DOUBT PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IS HARBINGER OF SWING TOWARD WHITE REGIMES SUCH AS WE SAW IN 1971 OR THAT MORE RECENT PATTERN OF IMPROVING RELS WITH AFRICAN NEIGHBORS WILL BE REVERSED. PRESIDENT PROBABLY USED OCCASION TO EMPHASIZE HIS DETERMINATION TO CONTROL MANNER IN WHICH LATTER RELS DEVELOP AND HIS REFUSAL TO BE PUSHED FROM POLICY CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINING RELS WITH WHITE SOUTH. WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHAT PROMPTED HIS TO VOICE HIS CONCERN AT THIS TIME, BUT POSSIBLY HE HAD IN MIND RECENT INCREASE IN FRELIMO PRESSURE AGAINST MALAWI'S ACCESS ROUTES.
FARBER

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